IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 29 through 36 are amended as indicated below. No claims have been cancelled or added.

29. (Currently amended) A method ~~on~~ for use in a detector device for controlling access to information on a network including a plurality of interconnected devices, the detector device coupled to the network between a first device and a second device ~~such that the detector device does not introduce a point of failure if the detector device becomes inoperable~~, the method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of request ~~signal from~~ signals for data between the first device ~~for data on~~ and the second device in the network, ~~the~~ at least one request signal including a user identification parameter;

determining whether a user identified by the user identification parameter in the request signal is permitted access to the data; ~~and~~

comparing a ~~pre-set credit~~ predetermined parameter associated with the user with a pre-determined ~~value~~ parameter associated with the data to determine permission to access the data~~.~~; and

in response to the comparison, providing a response to the request signal; and

in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the plurality of request signals to pass uninterrupted between the first device and the second device.

30. (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, ~~further comprising providing access to the data in response to the user having permission to access the data and the pre-set credit parameter being~~ wherein the provided response comprises allowing

access to the data when the predetermined associated with the user is greater than or equal to a predetermined ~~value~~ parameter associated with the data.

31. (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, ~~further comprising preventing access to the second device in response to the pre-set credit parameter being~~ wherein the provided response comprises allowing access to the data when the predetermined associated with the user is less than or equal to a predetermined ~~value~~ parameter associated with the data.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the provided response comprises re-directing the data signal to a third device in response to the ~~pre-set credit parameter~~ predetermined parameter associated with the user being less than ~~a~~ the predetermined value associated with the data, the third device allowing for a re-setting of the ~~pre-set credit~~ predetermined parameter to a new ~~pre-set credit value~~ parameter comprising a value greater than or equal to the predetermined ~~value~~ parameter associated with the data.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined ~~value~~ parameter is one from a group comprising a positive monetary value, a positive time value, a bandwidth value, a quality of service value, and a content rating.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising allowing access to one from a group comprised of voice data, video data, and a real-time application in response to at least one of the bandwidth value or quality of service value being greater than or equal to a threshold ~~value~~ parameter.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising providing access to a second data that does not require a ~~credit~~ parameter value in response to ~~one of~~ either

the ~~pre-set credit value~~ predetermined parameter associated with the user being less than or equal to the ~~pre-determined value~~ predetermined parameter associated with the data or the user not having permission to access the data corresponding to the request signal.

36. (Currently amended) A network-based billing method on a detector device for providing access to resources on a network, the detector device coupled to the network such that the detector device does not introduce a point of failure if the detector device becomes inoperable, the method comprising:

monitoring a data signal from a device on a network, the data signal including a request for a resource;

identifying a ~~cost~~ value for accessing the resource;

associating a user identification with the data signal;

determining whether a user identified by the user identification is permitted access to the resource;

identifying a credit balance for the user identification; ~~and~~

comparing the credit balance with the ~~cost~~ value to determine access to the resource~~.~~;

in response to the comparison, determining a response to the request; and

in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the data signals to pass uninterrupted between the resources on the network.

37. (Previously added) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being less than or equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

38. (Previously added) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being greater than or equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

39. (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising re-directing the data signal to a second resource in response to the credit balance being less than the cost, the second resource configured to allow for increasing the credit balance.

40. (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising providing access to a second resource having no cost in response to the credit balance being less than the cost.

41. (Previously added) The method of claim 36, wherein the cost comprises one from a group comprising a monetary value, a quality of service value, a bandwidth value, a time value, and a content rating value.

42. (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising passing the data signal to a second device having the resource.